



June 26, 1984

Mr. Peter J. Bulstrode  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2AS  
ENGLAND

Dear Peter:

I have held off responding to your good letter of May 30 until I was certain the "news" was relayed to London and had appeared here in the press. The "news" concerns the official transfer of the first installment of the operational records of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to the National Archives. Enclosed are some clippings concerning the release of the records and what the journalists found among them. Also enclosed is the agreed wording of the announcement which will be a small part of the NARS prepared "news notes" being sent to about 200 addressees (including all of the significant scholarly journals in the field of history). That announcement will go out this week.

You and our mutual friends (Rosie, et al.) will want to know that the CIA has carefully reviewed (using OSS annuitants) each page of the ca. 3,000 cubic feet of records before they are transferred for accessioning into the National Archives of the United States. If there was any need to protect the information so far as their agency's sensitivities are concerned the item is withdrawn and held by the CIA. The records are then transferred to the National Archives where my staff is withdrawing documents which contain information potentially sensitive from the viewpoint of any other U.S. agency or a foreign government. Finally, the particular records requested by researchers here in the National Archives are screened one last time to identify and protect information which, if released, might constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. All these reviews will, we trust, ensure that nothing sensitive or truly embarrassing will be released.

We anticipate a considerable influx of researchers and consequently many requests for access to the withdrawn documents. Anticipating that demand is what this letter is about. The first increment of the OSS records transferred consist of ten items or file series which can be described as follows:

Item No. 5, History of OSS in London.

Narratives that summarize the activities of the London OSS Office including the R&A Branch, SI and SO Branches, Morale Operations, Censorship--Documentation Branch, X-2 Branch, Special Funds Branch, Security Office, Psychological Warfare, Propaganda Operations and others, 1942-45, 21 cu. ft.

Item No. 13, OSS History Office Files.

A collection summarizing information intended as the basis for historical publication. Includes OSS Monthly Reports, monthly summaries of OSS activities, Secretariat Special Reports, etc., 1943-45, 45 cu. ft.



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Item No. 14, Foreign Nationalities Branch.

Files of the N.Y. office of the Foreign Nationalities Branch containing information contributed by persons in the U.S. familiar with foreign countries of interest to OSS. 1941-45, 54 cu. ft.

Item No. 15, Miscellaneous Files - Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria, also Special Teams.

A general history and situation reports on Yugoslavia, Greece and Bulgaria (1943), a section on the "George" case, project reports on "Danube" and "Elsor" and 47 folders on JEDBURGH teams, and a description of the Special Allied Airborne Reconnaissance Force and its personnel. 1942-45, 3 cu. ft.

Item No. 17, Special Forces.

Correspondence and reports relating to special forces infiltrated behind enemy lines. Includes 82 reports on the JEDBURGH teams that describe their mission and the personnel involved. Included is an account of communications operations in Italy, history of OSS Detachment 101, and a communications war diary of the Far East and Europe. June - October 1944, 2 cu.ft.

Item No. 20, Secret Intelligence Operations.

Correspondence concerning the activities of the Secret Intelligence Branch in the collecting of intelligence from world-wide sources, and the evaluation and dissemination of that intelligence to the Allied intelligence agencies. 1942-45, 25 cu.ft.

Item No. 24, Field Intelligence Reports, Theater Officer Correspondence and Draft Histories.

Consists of intelligence reports from field stations in Rome, Burma, Caserta, Singapore and Stockholm, X-2 reports from New Delhi, reports on the guerilla and resistance groups behind enemy lines, administrative correspondence from Theater Officers and history drafts. 1942-45, 27 cu. ft.

Item No. 26, Propaganda Samples.

Samples of American propaganda leaflets, black radio scripts and samples of the publication, "L'Amerique en Guerre." 1944, 1 cu. ft.

Item No. 29, London Field Files.

Correspondence, reports, memorandums, operational activity files, etc. 1943-45, 31 cu. ft.

Item No. 30, Official Record. Documents from the Office of the Director.

Record copies of miscellaneous administrative papers collected by the Office of the Director of COI and OSS, includes correspondence, organizational studies, memorandums, and progress reports. 1942-45, 3 cu. ft.

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You should appreciate that these brief notes are based on descriptions of the records prepared before they were reviewed by the CIA and NARS. Some of the material described may have been withdrawn in whole or in part. In any case, these are the series which have been transferred to date.

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I am routing this through my contact at the Embassy in the expectation that he may want to add something to this discussion as well. I will be very anxious to learn how you all view this entire business.

Thank you for the article from the "Economist." I subsequently found a source nearby for that publication and took the opportunity to read the following article on the Granada invasion. Both articles were very interesting indeed.

Enclosed along with the OSS release clippings you will find a few other bits and pieces you may find of use, too.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,



EDWIN A. THOMPSON  
Director  
Records Declassification Division

Enclosures

CC:

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